

PREVIOUS MEETING – 3rd March, 08

APOLOGIES: Ray & Cynthia Hewson

A rather special meeting as we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Society and it was great to have such a wonderful attendance.

Dan O'Connor from EPOS gave us an informative presentation on Brazilian Laelias.

TIPS FROM DAN'S TALK

- ❖ Laelia purpurata needs to be watered 3 times a week in summer. Do not fertilize in winter.
- ❖ Laelia lobata does not like to be disturbed. Best grown on a mount and needs bright light of 50%.
- ❖ Laelia perrinii an excellent choice for beginners as it grows and flowers well.
- ❖ Dan's feeding programme for Cattleyas and Laelias:
September – December: Polyfeed
January – April: Chemicult No. 2.
These are diluted at half strength if using rain water and ¼ strength if using municipal water.
Dan does not fertilize his plants during winter.
Flush plants well once a month.
- ❖ Dan is experimenting with different growing mediums:
Peach Pips 70% and Bark 30%. Plants will need to be staked initially.
Coco Husk – your pot must be crocked with stone for 1/3 of the pot.
- ❖ Dan uses neat Methylated Spirits applied with an artist's paint brush or cotton bud and dabs this directly onto Mealybug to control them.

PLANT TABLE RESULTS:

What a fantastic display on the table this month – 46 stunning plants.

Species on Display included:

- ❖ A number of well grown Ornithophora radicans. This is an easy species to grow from Brazil.
- ❖ Miltonia moreliana from Eastern Brazil with most beautiful plum coloured blooms, grows well under intermediate conditions and quickly grows into a specimen plant.
- ❖ Aeranthus grandiflora from Madagascar. These plants require shady and humid conditions in cultivation.
- ❖ Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis – This is the first time we have had one of these beauties on our table! Occurs from Colombia where it grows in extremely wet cloud forest. They are best grown under intermediate – cool conditions with an abundant supply of water year round.

Hybrids on display included:

- ❖ Five well grown phalaenopsis each with a stunning display of blooms.
- ❖ Beautiful Oncidiums Sweet Sugar 'Emperor' and Sharry Baby.
- ❖ 22 Magnificent Cattleyas and therefore a special category was created for them.

Thank you to members for bringing their flowering plants to share with us.

Members' votes resulted in the following:

Species:	1st	Dendrobium aduncum	Robert & Tracy Moss
	2nd	Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis	Dot Norval
	3rd	Gongora galeata	Robert & Tracy Moss
Hybrids:	1st	Vanda Robert's Delight 'Crownfox Big Red'	Robert & Tracy Moss
	2nd	Dendrobium Mini Pink Charm	Maureen Wells
	3rd	Ascocenda Princess Mikasa	Dot Norval
Cattleyas:	1st	Cattleya Walkerana (Registered as C. Aloha Case)	Mavis Downey
	2nd	Cattleya Bow Bells x	Mavis Downey
	3rd	Cattleya Princess Bells x Bob Betts	Freda Steel

RAFFLE:

The Plants on raffle, Blc Sylvia Fry 'Dundas' x Blc Goldenzelle 'Tokyo' and Potinara varut 'Gold Beater' were won by Mirle Atkinson and Toni Krull respectively. The raffle plant for April is Cattleya skinneri Alba and tickets will be R10.00 each.

GONUBIE GOSSIP:

SHOP NEWS:

Shop Open Times for April are:

Sunday 6th April - 14h15 - 14h40

Saturday 12th April - 09h00 - 16h00

GOS QUIZ:

MARCH'S ANSWER:

The genus Rhynchostylis are known as Foxtail Orchids.

Closely related to Vandas, they are distributed from India to Borneo and the Phillipines. The flowers have a strong spicy fragrance. They have the same growing requirements as Vandas and grow best in hanging baskets.

The first correct entry drawn was that of Carol van Niekerk and she won a Colmanara Wildcat. Congratulations and good luck with your plant.

APRIL'S QUESTION:

Name two rupicolous 'rock dwelling' Laelia species from Brazil.